

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
USSN 10/697,239

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following rewritten title:

PHASE SHIFTING WAVEFRONT INTERFERENCE METHOD

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure. A “clean” version of the Abstract is set forth on the following page.

~~1. Phase shifting wavefront superimposition method.~~

~~2.1 The invention relates to a~~ phase shifting wavefront superimposition method in which the intensities of superimposition patterns of object wavefront and reference wavefronts produced successively in time with respective phase shifts by predefinable phase steps are registered for a respective predefinable location and, from the registered intensities, an object-induced phase difference between object wavefront and reference wavefront is determined for the respective location.

~~2.2 According to the invention, phase steps~~ Phase step errors in the successively produced superimposition patterns are determined by means of a spatial superimposition pattern evaluation and taken into account correctively in the determination of the object-induced phase difference.

~~2.3 Use,~~ The method is used for example, ~~for~~in wavefront measurement of optical imaging systems by means of phase shifting interferometry for the purpose of highly accurate determination of imaging errors.